

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A method of rating a bug, comprising:  
reporting the bug to a business entity by an interested party;  
entering information regarding the bug into a database;  
assigning a priority number for the bug;  
calculating a sigma number for the bug using the priority number;  
evaluating the bug to be fixed using the sigma number; and  
escalating the bug.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
fixing the bug;  
relaying information concerning a fixed bug to the interested party; and  
obtaining feedback regarding the fixed bug from the interested party.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
assigning the priority number automatically.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
calculating the sigma number automatically.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
performing queries on the database to gather information on the bug.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
reporting progress and results of the bug evaluation.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the reporting is displayed using  
a graphical user interface.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
initiating alerts at certain threshold sigma numbers.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information regarding the bug is entered using a graphical user interface.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating the bug relies upon a cost benefit analysis.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sigma number dynamically reflects the impact of the bug on the business entity over time.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information entered into the database comprises data associated with the bug, data associated with a reporting vendor, and data related to a software application with the bug.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein escalating the bug comprises ranking the bug and setting an order of significance.
- 14 (Original) A method of rating a bug, comprising:  
reporting the bug to a business entity by an interested party;  
entering information regarding the bug into a database;  
assigning a priority number for the bug;  
calculating a sigma number for the bug using the priority number;  
evaluating the bug to be fixed using the sigma number;  
escalating the bug;  
fixing the bug;  
relaying information concerning a fixed bug to the interested party;  
obtaining feedback regarding the fixed bug from the interested party;  
assigning the priority number automatically;  
calculating the sigma number automatically;

performing queries on the database to gather information on the bug;  
reporting progress and results of the bug evaluation; and  
initiating alerts at certain threshold sigma numbers.

15. (Original) A bug council rating apparatus, comprising:  
a database to store the information entered using a graphical user interface;  
a priority number module configured to generate a priority number; and  
a sigma number module configured to generate a sigma number.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:  
a monitoring module to monitor the value of the sigma number for a bug  
and initiating alerts at certain threshold sigma numbers; and  
a reporting module to produce reports and track the progress of the bug.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein evaluating the bug relies  
upon a cost benefit analysis.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the priority number is based  
on information stored in the database
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the sigma number is based  
on the priority number over a period of time.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the information entered into  
the database comprises data associated with the bug, data associated with a  
reporting vendor, and data related to a software application with the bug.
21. (Original) A bug council rating apparatus, comprising:  
a database to store the information entered using a graphical user interface;  
a priority number module generating a priority number based on  
information stored in the database;

- a sigma number module generating a sigma number based on the priority number over a period of time;
  - a monitoring module to monitor the value of the sigma number for a bug and initiating alerts at certain threshold sigma numbers; and
  - a reporting module to produce reports and track the progress of the bug.
22. (Original) A computer system to rate a bug, comprising:
- a processor;
  - a memory;
  - a computer display; and
  - software instructions stored in the memory for enabling the computer system under control of the processor, to perform:
    - reporting the bug to a business entity by an interested party;
    - entering information regarding the bug into a database using a graphical user interface displayed on the computer display;
    - assigning a priority number for the bug;
    - calculating a sigma number for the bug;
    - evaluating the bug to be fixed using the sigma number; and
    - escalating the bug.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein evaluating the bug relies upon a cost benefit analysis.
24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the sigma number dynamically reflects the impact of the bug on the business entity over time.
25. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the information entered into the database comprises data associated with the bug, data associated with a reporting vendor, and data related to a software application with the bug.